

~~SENSITIVE~~

CIA/SAVA / WVIN 760926



WEEKLY VIETNAM INDICATORS

Week Ending 26 September 1970

NSA Declassification/Release Instructions on File.

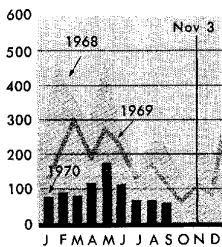
For the President Only

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SOUTH VIETNAM WEEKLY INDICATORS

1968-1970

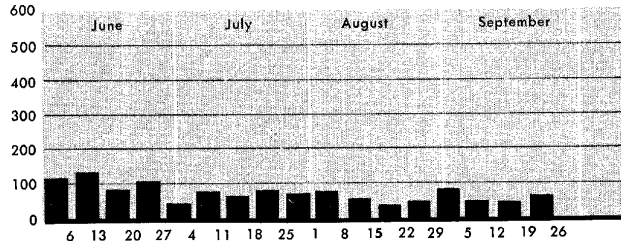
Weekly average for each month



JUNE-SEPTEMBER 1970

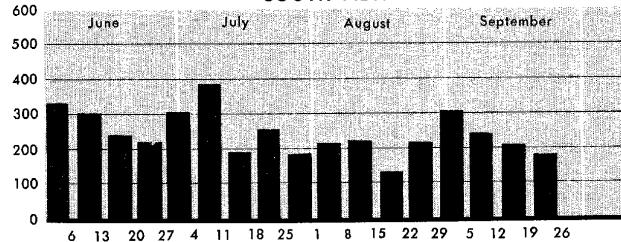
Weekly data as reported

US BATTLE DEATHS



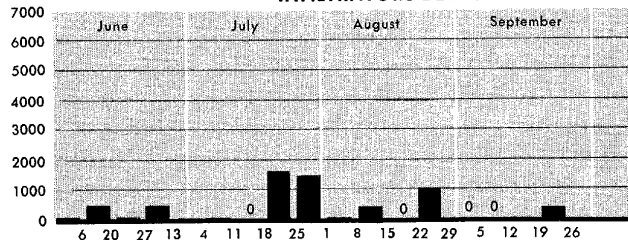
climbed to 63 from last week's 52.

SOUTH VIETNAMESE BATTLE DEATHS



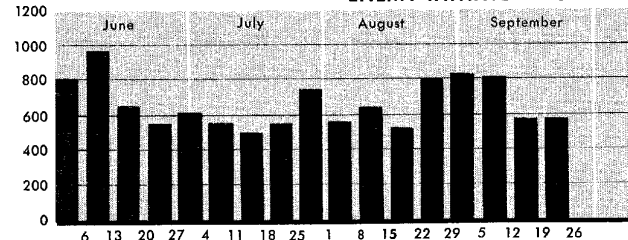
declined for the third week in a row as 182 were reported vice last week's 207. The official total will change as late reports are received and will be lower than the figures released to the press by the GVN.

INFILTRATORS DETECTED IN PIPELINE



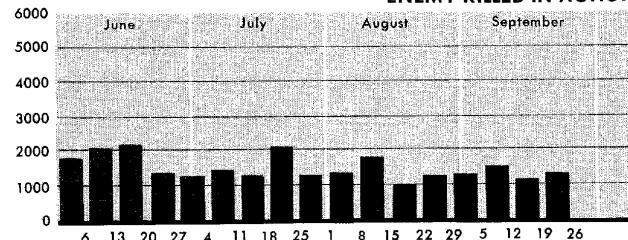
stand at one battalion-size group, with a strength of 415. The total number of infiltrators since 23 October 1969 is now estimated at 65,500 - 67,000.

ENEMY-INITIATED INCIDENTS



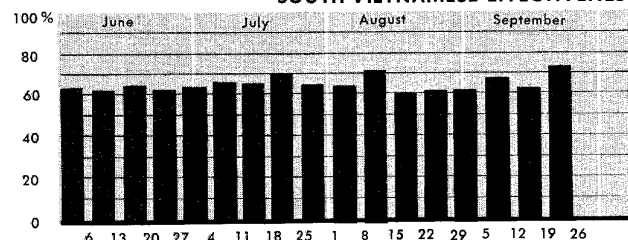
remained at 597 — the same as last week.

ENEMY KILLED IN ACTION



rose to 1,457 from the 1,217 reported last week.

SOUTH VIETNAMESE EFFECTIVENESS



as measured by the percentage of enemy killed by GVN forces increased from last week's 64% to 75%.

Statistics for the latest week shown are preliminary

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Enemy Activity

Enemy-initiated action was light throughout South Vietnam last week, but enemy units in the northern provinces have been engaged in preparations for heightened tactical activity, probably to occur during the coming week. While attacks are planned throughout MR 1, parts of MR 2, and along the coastal lowlands, they will probably be limited in intensity. Elsewhere in the country, the level of activity should remain low.

In north Laos, Operation COUNTERPUNCH forces have had limited success as they have moved against enemy forward positions near the Plaine des Jarres from three directions. The enemy, however, is reacting to these moves by deploying his forces to protect his positions. To the south, friendly units have retaken a key site on the Bolovens Plateau but lost two others. Meanwhile, the interdiction campaign against the enemy's lines of communications in the Lao Panhandle continues.

In Cambodia, government forces are consolidating their positions in the area of the recently recaptured town of Tang Kouk. Although the enemy has been driven from the town, the Communists are still very much in evidence immediately to the north, east, and south. A third amphibious resupply convoy reached Kompong Thom during the week delivering four badly needed artillery pieces. Meanwhile, southwest of Phnom Penh, there is growing concern with increased enemy attacks along Route 4 where six Communist battalions reportedly are available for further attacks.

Enemy Infiltration

One battalion-size group, with a strength of 415, was detected during the week -- the first normal four-digit group observed since 26 August. The total number of infiltrators since 23 October 1969 now stands at an estimated 65,500 - 67,000. Infiltration groups with unusual designators, mentioned in the 12 September report, continue to appear. To date, seven such groups have been detected, with a combined strength of some 4,000. Although available evidence is inconclusive, it seems possible that these groups represent units of either the 308th and 320th NVA Divisions or both. Elements of both divisions have been observed moving south within North Vietnam, have been communicating with the senior NVA logistics authority in Laos, and well may be destined for assignment to augment or protect the logistics system in the Laos Panhandle. In addition to the abnormal groups, the infiltration rate of normal, south Laos-bound groups remains high. Three groups were detected during the past week, bringing the total for September to six. Allowing for gaps in the sequential numbering system, the total input of personnel in these groups headed for southern Laos during September could be as high as 5,000.

South Vietnam Developments

Proposals made or planned by South Vietnamese peace advocates abroad and the prospective return to Saigon of one of the legislature's most prominent and outspoken doves have caused some controversy in Saigon. Opposition deputy Ngo Cong Duc, who earlier this month in Saigon proposed formation of a coalition to organize elections and then moved on to Paris where he has been publicizing his peace plan, is due to return from Paris in a few days to defend his controversial proposals. Moderate and hardline political figures, joined by some oppositionists, have denounced Duc's proposals, but his return coincides with a general upswing in peace activities in Saigon despite continued government firmness and may cause some anxious moments for the government.

Communist Developments

Considerable evidence has now been received clearly confirming that Madame Binh's 17 September Paris proposal was indeed part of a wide-ranging scenario aimed at generating peace sentiments rather than at promoting movement on substantive issues. In addition to numerous intercepts of Communist messages directing the indoctrination of cadre on the proper manner of looking upon the new proposal

("our basic standpoint and aims are unchanged"), [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The Directive, issued nearly three weeks before Madame Binh's proposal, calls for accelerated military, political, and proselyting efforts in support of diplomatic moves in Paris and reinforces other information that the Paris initiative was aimed mainly at the United States and South Vietnamese populations rather than the governments in Washington and Saigon. The Directive, however, does seem to hint that the Communists plan to come out with new proposals in the future, since it suggests a more flexible attitude on the subject of U.S. troop withdrawal than Madame Binh's public insistence on a complete withdrawal by June 1971.

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